



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

CHUCK ROSENBERG, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 28, 2006

Jim Rybicki
Public Information Officer
Phone: (703) 842-4050 Fax: (703) 549-5202
E-Mail: usavae.press@usdoj.gov
Website: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae

FORMER ARMY SERGEANT SENTENCED FOR INTERNET ENTICEMENT

(**Alexandria, VA**) Former Army Sgt. Joseph J. Wunderler, age 29, of Whitehall, Pennsylvania was sentenced by the Honorable Gerald Bruce Lee, United States District Judge, to five years in prison for attempted enticement of a minor to engage in illegal sexual conduct. In addition, Wunderler was sentenced to eight years of supervised release following incarceration. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement today.

According to court documents, between July 29, 2005, and August 19, 2005, Wunderler engaged in numerous chat sessions on the internet with a person he believed to be a 14 year old girl. Wunderler used his Yahoo account to discuss sexual acts he wanted to engage in with the girl. On August 19, 2005, Sgt. Wunderler drove to a residence in Herndon, Virginia, where he hoped to meet the girl for a sexual encounter. At the residence, Wunderler was met by a reporter for Dateline NBC who recorded an interview with the sergeant. On November 4, 2005, the interview was aired on national television.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg stated "We will continue to work closely with federal and state law enforcement offices in the region to safeguard our children from internet predators. The protection of our children is a fundamental responsibility of law enforcement."

The case was investigated by Special Agent Fines E. Kiper, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division. The prosecution of the case was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Gerald J. Smagala and Edmund P. Power.

###